UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

LEBANON



LEBANON EMERGENCY
FLASH UPDATE
26 November 2024

© UNHCR/ Ximena Borrazas

A cloud of smoke caused by the impact of a missile strike, is visible over the Haret Hreik neighbourhood of Beirut, Lebanon.

1.3 M
affected people in Lebanon
(source: GoL)

899,725
Internally displaced people in Lebanon
(source: IOM/DTM)

3,575
new displacements over the past week
(source: IOM/DTM)

188,119
registered IDPs in 1,027 collective shelters
(source: IOM/DTM)

Situation overview

- Israeli air strikes intensifies across Lebanon, including in the South, Saida, Nabatieh, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and around the southern suburbs and other central locations of Beirut, deepening the already severe humanitarian crisis.
- Lebanese authorities refer to 1.3 million people affected, while the joint IOM and UNHCR tracking shows that as of 25 November, 899,725 Lebanese and Syrian people have been internally displaced in Lebanon (Source: IOM/DTM round 65).
- Since October 2023, UNHCR identified over 100,000 refugees who are secondarily displaced, including over 87,000 since 23 September only, 99 per cent being Syrian refugees.
- UNHCR estimates that at least 340,000 Syrian refugees were residing in the cadasters most affected by the hostilities[1].
- To date, the latest hostilities have resulted in some 3,768 deaths and 15,699 injured, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health.
- Over 562,000 people[2] are estimated to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria since the escalation of hostilities, with around 63 per cent Syrians and 37 per cent Lebanese nationals.
- The most urgent needs are access to safe shelters, core relief items, healthcare, food, cash assistance, and protection services.
- Since 23 September, over 418,600 Lebanese and refugees affected are being assisted with some type of cash assistance as part of the emergency response, and over 508,300 individuals overall since October 2023.

Key highlights

- In support of the Government-led emergency response, the humanitarian community launched a **Flash Appeal** to enable partners to rapidly deliver humanitarian assistance. The appeal seeks **$425.7 million to assist 1 million people** affected by the crisis over the next three months.
- **As part of the Interagency response, UNHCR has released an Emergency Appeal for Lebanon, urgently seeking to $111 million** to scale up the response and cover immediate needs across all vulnerable population groups, including Lebanese and refugee.
- UNHCR Emergency Appeal for Lebanon includes increased requirements for **procurement and distribution of core relief items, cash assistance and support to institutions in the response**.
- UNHCR continues calling on all actors to maintain and apply humanitarian principles and allow **equal access to assistance**.

[1] *Refugees who resided in areas targeted by 8 or more airstrikes.*
[2] *Figures are undergoing verification and are subject to change.*

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UNHCR RESPONSE

On 1 October, UNHCR declared an internal Level 3 Emergency for Lebanon and Syria to scale up its response efforts and coordination on the ground. UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of refugees and Lebanese displaced across Lebanon, coordinating closely with the authorities and other humanitarian organizations, and providing protection services, emergency cash assistance, core relief items, access to safe shelter, health care, and psychosocial support.

Protection

UNHCR's protection emergency strategy aims to repurpose and scale up existing systems for all populations, focusing on rapid assessments, protection monitoring, community-based structures, maintaining communication channels, and case management for high-risk individuals.

- Since 23 September, over 55,700 people have followed the new UNHCR Lebanon WhatsApp Channel to receive messages on awareness and security, rising scam risks, and emergency resources; separately, the HELP Lebanon website has received over 779,528 visits, including 15,739 visits this week.
- UNHCR continues to process claims for information/referral from refugees and Lebanese displaced through its complaint and feedback mechanisms, including over 8,000 average daily calls to the National Call Centre and 269 average daily messages to the Online Contact Form in the past week.
- In areas not directly affected by strikes, UNHCR continues to support community development centres (CDCs) for safe 'one-stop-shop' support services and activities, including protection, psychosocial, social, and legal programmes. As of 21 November 2024, 15 CDCs out of 31 were physically open. Over the past week, CDC partners reached 3,424 through in-person, online or mobile activities including. When CDCs are not able to operate, UNHCR and partners are mobilized within and outside collective shelters, delivering protection services - sharing information, offering counselling, psychosocial support, responding to inquiries and complaints, mobilizing community for self-driven initiatives, and referring persons at heightened risk for services. Since the escalation of hostilities UNHCR's partners accessed 277 collective shelters.
- Since the escalation of hostilities, 8,138 displaced persons at heightened risk were referred for specialized support by Outreach Volunteers, with 716 referrals in the past week. Of those, 72% were displaced. The most reported referrals were urgent shelter and basic assistance needs (Saida, Aley, Beirut and West Bekaa), risks of evictions and persons with serious medical care needs.
- Through undertaking protection monitoring, UNHCR and its partners provide data and protection analysis for the Protection snapshots issued by the sectors, contributing to collective advocacy.
- Since 23 September 2024, around 52,600 people have been supported with Emergency Protection Cash Assistance (EPCA) to address specific protection needs, out of 60,700 people reached since October 2023. Around 70% of the persons reached are Lebanese. EPCA is being mostly used to address risks of eviction, risks and actual homelessness and resorting to harmful coping mechanisms.

Health

UNHCR health emergency strategy focuses on continuity of care and bolstering existing referral programmes, responding to war-wounded refugees, supporting primary health care centers affected by conflict, outbreak preparedness and response, and provide institutional health support.

- To facilitate refugees' access to life-saving services that include emergency care for refugees injured in war, UNHCR has expanded its hospital network in the South, Bekaa and Beirut Mount Lebanon regions totaling 44 hospitals. However, the ongoing conflict is forcing hospitals in high-risk areas to close or provide limited services. Within the UNHCR network, 2 are partially operational out of 11 hospitals in the Bekaa, while in the South, out of 15 hospitals, 3 are closed, 4 are partially operational and 8 are operational but limiting to mainly emergency care for war injuries. Access to those facilities remain unsafe due to the ongoing conflict.
- UNHCR is procuring ambulances to assist with the evacuation and transfer of critical patients, working alongside the Lebanese Red Cross and Civil Defense services, which are currently overwhelmed by the existing demands. The process is ongoing to prioritize the delivery of some ambulances to the Ministry of Public Health to address the most urgent needs.
- The UNHCR is actively providing emergency medical care for refugees impacted by the war. Since 23 September, UNHCR has supported treatment for 195 war-wounded refugees at its contracted hospitals, with a total of 231 since October 2023.
- UNHCR continues to support primary health care centres to ensure continuum of services for all, including through support for non-communicable disease, maternal and child care, and mental health. UNHCR also expanded its primary health care programme to include outreach health services through mobile and satellite units to serve the emerging health and mental health needs of displaced refugees and Lebanese.
- To support the national disease outbreak and response activities, UNHCR has deployed two rapid response teams to facilitate disease surveillance. It also dispatched Oral Rehydration Salts to two regions in light of high number of acute watery diarrhea cases, aiming to reduce dehydration and limit the risk of hospitalization when the health system is overstretched in responding to the emergency.

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Shelter and WASH

UNHCR shelter emergency strategy envisions to combine rapid response and repairs in collective sites and in other shelters and settlements to all population groups.

- UNHCR and partners continue to provide upgrading works in collective sites, including partitioning, weatherproofing and repair of water and sanitation utilities. UNHCR is targeting the repair of at least 450 collective sites designated by the government across the country and hosting over 16,000 families, mainly Lebanese. Since the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR shelter partners assessed 467sites across the country, all identified as needing repairs. Of those, repairs are ongoing/completed in 259 sites.
- Since September 2024, 94,400 people are targeted to receive Cash-for-Shelter and over 103,000 since October 2023. About 91% of them are Lebanese. Cash-for-Shelter addresses their primary shelter needs such as maintenance costs and payment of utility bills.
- Since October 2023 overall, 90,558 affected people received shelter support, including Cash-for-Shelter, rehabilitation works, enhanced access to water, and improved privacy through partitions.

Basic Assistance

UNHCR basic assistance emergency strategy focuses on cash assistance for vulnerable displaced families affected by the conflict, complemented with Core Relief Items distribution when needed.

- Since 23 September 2024, 336,165 core relief items (CRIs) including mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps were distributed to 199,000 people, 90% of them being Lebanese. Overall, since October 2023, over 481,880 CRIs were distributed to 255,959 displaced people.
- In response to the escalation of the hostilities, UNHCR is expending temporarily its existing multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to affected vulnerable refugee families with the expansion of the MPCA reaching 271,600 people.

In their own words



I didn't take anything, I left everything at home, we just wanted to save our lives.

Due to ongoing hostilities, families were forced to flee their homes with little more than the clothes on their back. UNHCR and its partner @arcenciel.aec are providing medical supplies for persons with disabilities. Hear their story on Instagram or X © UNHCR

FUNDING I UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation

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